

One Minute Guide



National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Children

The NRM is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate support. If the potential victim is under 18, or may be under 18, an NRM referral must be made (children cannot be referred in using a Duty to Notify referral). Child victims do not have to consent to be referred into the NRM. Children must first be safeguarded and then referred into the NRM process. At the same time, the child should also be referred to the Independent Child Trafficking Guardians Service. The NRM also enables the National Crime Agency, (NCA) and the Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) to collate national data about the scope and nature of human trafficking and modern slavery in the UK. Referrals are completed online:

<https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start>

What to do?

Any professional that has a concern for a child they believe to be at risk of immediate harm they should contact the Police.

If you are concerned that a child maybe a victim of human trafficking should contact the Children's Resource Service (of which MASH is part) on 023 8083 3004 and complete the [online referral form](#) and the [Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework \(CERAF\)](#).

This is to ensure that arrangements can be put in place to safeguard the child or young person, and the police are made aware that a potential crime has been committed. When age is in doubt, the presumption has to be that the person is a child.

A strategy discussion will take place where:

- MASH and the Police have assessed the indicators of trafficking and arrangements have been put in place to safeguard the child
- A decision will be made on which first responder eg; Police, Social worker will refer the child to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) using the online referral form.
- A referral to the Independent Child Trafficking Guardians Service should be considered. Only organisations classed as first responders can refer a potential victim of modern slavery into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Who are First Responders?

A First Responder is an individual working within one of these organisations:

- Local Authorities
- Police forces
- UK Visas and Immigration
- Border Force
- Immigration Enforcement
- National Crime Agency
- Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)
- Salvation Army
- Barnardo's

- Migrant Help
- Medaille Trust
- Kalayaan
- Unseen
- Tara Project (Scotland)
- NSPCC (CTAC)
- BAWSO
- New Pathways
- Refugee Council

Any "first responder" identifying a potential victim of modern slavery must refer them to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for consideration by the competent authority.

Does that mean that any arrangements put in place will be superseded?

No, the NRM does not replace or supersede Child Protection procedures, so existing safeguarding processes should still be followed in tandem with the notifications to the NRM.

What are the responsibilities of a First Responder Organisation?

First responder organisations have the following responsibilities:

- To identify potential victims of trafficking and/or modern slavery by recognise the indicators
- To gather information in order to understand what has happened to them
- To refer victims into the NRM via the online process
- To provide a point of contact for to assist with the Reasonable and Conclusive Grounds decisions and to request a reconsideration where a first responder believes it is appropriate to do so

What happens next?

Once a referral has been made, trained decision makers will assess and make a decision on whether an individual is a victim of trafficking or modern slavery. There is a two-stage process where trained decision maker will decide if there are "reasonable grounds" to believe the child/young person has been the victim of trafficking (normally within 5 working days of receipt of the referral). The first 5 days also provides for a child to be kept in safe accommodation (i.e. away from the trafficker). If "reasonable grounds" are found the case will be investigated in more details to decide if there are "conclusive grounds". The conclusive grounds decision will be made regarding whether the child has been the victim of trafficking after a 45-day reflection period.

If conclusive grounds decision is positive - The potential victim will receive support for a further 45 calendar days so they can transition into other services.

If the conclusive grounds decision is negative - The potential victim will receive support for 9 working days after the decision.

Ask for a reconsideration - A reconsideration can be requested at any time if:

- more information about the case becomes available
- there are concerns about the original decision

Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTG)

ICTG, recently renamed from Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTA), are an independent source of advice for children subjected to modern slavery and somebody who can speak up on their behalf.

In early adopter sites in the in the East Midlands, Greater Manchester, Hampshire & the Isle of Wight, London Borough of Croydon, Wales and West Midlands Combined Authority, if a child is considered to be a potential victim of modern slavery including trafficking, a first responder must be informed. The first responder must notify the ICTG service by completing dedicated pro-forma and issuing it to trafficking.referrals@bypmk.cjsm.net or by contacting the ICTG 24-hour support line on 0800 043 4303.

For more information:

The [NRM Guidance](#) and the [online form for First Responders](#) to use are available from the [government's Modern Slavery webpages](#). You can also contact them via email: nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk or telephone: 020 7035 5689

The Home Office have produced resources for use within organisation to raise awareness on Modern Slavery available [here](#)

Border Force have produced a 30 minute e-learning course on how to spot the signs of exploitation and how to raise concerns to them or the police, it's available [here](#)